

Comments on California Water Plan Update Attn: Francisco Guzman

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To: DWR CWP Comments <cwpcom@water.ca.gov>;

Importance: High

Good Afternoon,

First I wanted to start by thanking all of you for all your hard work over the last couple of years. Each sector of water is extremely complicated, but then to try to address them all in one document makes the task incredibly difficult.

At the April 24, 2017 Policy Advisory Committee, Rachel Ehlers, and others, spoke about what type of product would serve as a useful document. I remember we left there that day with the direction that the Water Plan Update would have enough specific recommendations and actions that the legislature could take the documents and have specific actions that could serve as the basis for legislation. That was a worthy goal, but I fear we have combined and simplified all sectors to the point that the recommendations are general in nature, but aren't specific enough for the legislature to act specifically in any given sector. We can't rewrite the document to address the specifics needed in each sector to make the recommendations actionable by the legislature. However, there are footnotes on a number of the tables that indicate that the different water management sectors have relied on different funding mechanisms historically. There should be some type of discussion in the body of the text explaining that as the legislature examines implementing the recommended actions, the tools and mechanisms for doing so may be different for each of the water sectors and need to be addressed as such.

A couple of specific comments:

On Table 4.4 – The Watershed Assessment could devastate local flood maintaining agencies and local flood capital improvement agencies. These agencies depend almost entirely on Proposition 214 property assessments. Numerous polls have shown there is an upper limit property owners will tolerate before they vote against additional assessments. If the State imposes a flood assessment on a watershed, it may make it impossible for the local agencies to raise any funding for their activities. This concern was addressed in previous drafts, but was lost in this version.

In Chapter 1, under “State Initiatives and Investments” there should be some reference to the “Central Valley Flood Protection Plan Update” and any other relevant State flood documents in the timeframe.

Thank you again,

Rick Johnson
Executive Director
Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency

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